

STATE GOVERNMENT NEWS

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No. 1

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Fourteenth Biennial Meeting -- The Fourteenth Biennial General Assembly of the States was held by the Council of State Governments in Chicago on December 4 and 5. More than 300 legislators and officials attended from forty-three states, Hawaii and the District of Columbia.

Among subjects examined in panel and floor discussions were atomic energy, problems of the aging, control of water resources, high school organization and curricula, metropolitan government, veterans' programs, problems of the mentally retarded, and federal-state relations. One session dealt especially with Suggested State Legislation -- Program for 1959, developed by a committee of the Council.

Following a welcoming address on the opening day by Governor William G. Stratton of Illinois, immediate past President of the Council, Governor LeRoy Collins of Florida, President of the Council, addressed the Assembly on emerging responsibilities of state governments. At a State Dinner that evening DeMarquis D. Wyatt, Technical Assistant to the Director of Space Flight Administration, delivered an address on the potentials of space flight. On the following day the Reverend Harold Nance, Minister of the Methodist Church at Dexter, Missouri, spoke at a special luncheon on relationships between good government and good human relations. Among other addresses, President Emeritus James B. Conant of Harvard University dealt with essentials of high school organization and curricula.

One of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly urged Governors and legislatures to consider atomic energy proposals included in Suggested State Legislation -- Program for 1959, particularly those which are concerned with coordination of atomic development. Another resolution urged Congress to restate in unmistakable and more effective terms that the states shall have primary responsibility and authority for the administration and development of water resources within their boundaries. Among additional resolutions

the Assembly requested the Council of State Governments to forward the report and recommendations of the Committee on Mental Retardation to the state commissions on interstate cooperation and interested state officials for early consideration and appropriate action; urged states to give increased attention to the aged; recommended that regional and national groups of the Council concerned with highway safety devote special attention to control of driver licensing as a key to highway safety; and urged Governors and legislatures to give early consideration to the recommendations of the Joint Federal-State Action Committee involving state implementation.

An extensive summary of the General Assembly will appear in the winter quarterly issue of State Government.

BOARD OF MANAGERS

The Board of Managers of the Council of State Governments held its annual meeting in Chicago on December 3, 1958.

Elected as officers of the Council and members of the Executive Committee for 1959 were: President, Governor LeRoy Collins of Florida; First Vice-President and Chairman of the Board of Managers, Senator Elisha T. Barrett of New York; First Vice-President-Elect, Senator James J. McBride of California; Second Vice-President, Attorney General Latham Castle of Illinois; Third Vice-President, Hal Bridenbaugh, member of the Nebraska legislature; and Auditor, Dave S. Coltrane, Assistant Director of Administration and Budget Officer of North Carolina. Henry W. Toll of Colorado remains Honorary President. Governor Lane Dwinell of New Hampshire and Walter W. Johnson, Member of the Colorado Senate and Former Governor of Colorado, were elected Managers at Large for terms of five years each.

Among its actions the Board adopted a revised set of Articles of Organization of the Council and authorized establishment of a southern regional office of the Council, to be located in a city convenient to the

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1313 East Sixtieth Street, Chicago 37, Illinois

Eastern Regional Office

36 West Forty-fourth Street, New York 36, New York

Western Regional Office

582 Market Street, San Francisco 4, California

Washington Office

1025 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

several southern states, as requested recently by the Southern Governors' Conference.

WESTERN GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE

Immediate ratification of a new Western Interstate Corrections Compact was recommended by the Western Governors' Conference, meeting at Honolulu, Hawaii, November 23-26. By resolution the Governors urged the legislatures of the western states at their forthcoming sessions to act favorably on the compact, which would make possible contractual arrangements for interstate use of correctional institutions among the signatory states.

Among other actions the Governors registered support and encouragement for a second regional Workshop on Higher Education, to be organized cooperatively by the Council of State Governments and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education. The Conference also recommended study and consideration by the western states of proposed legislation to provide continuity of government in case of nuclear attack. The legislation was developed by the United States Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization in cooperation with Columbia University and the Council's Committee of State Officials on Suggested State Legislation.

Resolutions directed to the President of the United States and Congress reaffirmed support of statehood for Hawaii, requested appropriate consent legislation authorizing Guam to participate in the Western Interstate Corrections Compact, reaffirmed support for equitable allocation to Hawaii of interstate and defense highway system mileage, and reaffirmed a previous recommendation that the synthetic fuel industry -- based on oil shale, coal, tars and other deposits containing hydrocarbon -- be granted a reasonable depletion allowance for federal income tax purposes.

Another resolution urged the Atomic Energy Commission to provide a stable, steady and continuing market for purchase of uranium ore, with first consideration for domestic producers.

The Western Governors accepted an invitation by Governor Robert E. Smylie to hold their next meeting in Sun Valley, Idaho, next fall.

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CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS - DIRECT LEGISLATION

State Government News in December carried a summary of constitutional amendments and acts of direct legislation adopted at the polls in the November elections. Additional summaries of action at that time follow.

Louisiana -- Louisiana voters approved twenty of thirty proposed constitutional amendments that were placed before them in the November election. Ten were of statewide application and ten affected particular localities. Among statewide amendments adopted, one changed the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court and reorganized the courts of appeal. Another vested full authority in the legislature to provide financial assistance to children attending private non-sectarian elementary or secondary schools. A third provided for a total of ten years of veterans' homestead exemption for veterans of World War II who served in Korea. The date also was extended for filing written claims for the state bonus payable to veterans of the Korean conflict. One amendment changed the title of State Auditor to Comptroller. Still another prohibits the legislature from changing bills or joint resolutions introduced to amend the constitution by substituting an entirely new subject matter or by making a change not germane.

Maryland -- Maryland voters adopted three constitutional amendments in the November election. One abolished the office of State Librarian as of the end of the present incumbent's term. A second provided that any vacancy in the State Attorney's office in any county shall be filled by the judge or judges resident therein having jurisdiction in the Circuit Court of that county, and that in Baltimore City any such vacancy shall be filled by the Supreme Bench. The third amendment pertains to the section of the constitution dealing with the salaries or compensation of public officers. The section now provides that an officer's salary or compensation may not be increased or diminished during his term of office. The amendment makes an exception for the city of Baltimore, providing that the salary or compensation of any appointed public officer of the Mayor and City Council may be increased or diminished during his term.

South Dakota -- South Dakota voters approved three constitutional amendments in November. One lengthens the line of succession to the governorship by adding to it the Speaker of the House, the President Pro-Tem of the Senate and the Speaker Pro-Tem of the House. Another amendment provides that land acquired exclusively for public highways is to be exempt from taxation. The third provides that persons who move from a county or precinct retain the voting privilege in that county or precinct until the new residency requirements are met.

Kansas Judicial Amendment -- A note in the December issue of State Government News on Kansas constitutional amendments should have indicated that the section of the judicial amendment pertaining to nonpartisan selection of judges applies only to the selection of Justices of the Supreme Court. Other sections of the amendment have wider application. They prescribe the qualifications and tenure of Supreme and District Court Judges.

LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

Louisiana Special Session -- The Louisiana legislature met in special session November 11 to 22. Educational appropriations and changes in the general severance tax law were major items approved. Educational appropriations included \$3.7 million from the Public Welfare Fund to pay salaries of teachers and employees of the public school system. An additional \$8.8 million was appropriated out of the Public School Fund for salaries and \$1.5 million to the Teachers' Retirement System. Trade schools were allotted \$500,000 from the General Fund.

The legislature changed the time of payment of severance taxes from a quarterly to a monthly basis, and temporarily increased the rate of the tax per thousand cubic feet of gas until August 1, 1960, or such time as the gas gathering tax is found to be constitutional by the decision of a court of last resort. Another bill suspends the gas gathering tax law, the suspension to remain in effect until the constitutional issue is finally determined.

New Jersey Legislation -- Since publication of the legislative summary for 1958 in the autumn issue of State Government a number of New Jersey laws have been adopted. Enactments include the following:

The absentee voting law governing use of military service ballots was amended to permit their use by members of the Air Force and Coast Guard. An act was passed permitting the Treasurer and Comptroller to use facsimile signatures in signing checks. Under another new law county boards may permit any duly incorporated county mental health association to use space in county buildings for day care centers and schools for severely disturbed children.

An act on escheat of property makes special provision for disposal of property not taken by the state. Property which would otherwise escheat to the state but which is not taken because it is worthless may, on order of the Superior Court, be abandoned or destroyed by those having custody of it.

The Division of Water Supply in the Department of Conservation and Economic Development received a \$100,000 appropriation to study the practicability and suitability of on-stream ground water reservoirs.

HIGHWAYS, TRAFFIC CONTROL

Illinois Point System -- The Illinois Drivers License Department of the Secretary of State's Office has instituted a point system for traffic violations. Point values have been assigned to specific moving traffic violations, and the accumulation of certain totals will guide the department's review officers in revoking or suspending driver licenses for varying lengths of time. Aim of the system is to enable review officers to increase uniformity of treatment for motorists with similar records by providing a standard to guide them. Point values ranging from 3 to 110 are assigned to a total of eighty-four offenses against the Uniform Act Regulating Traffic on Highways and local ordinances. Under the system the accumulation of 110 or more points within one year would indicate revocation of the license. Suspensions would be indicated ranging from one month for 10 to 20 points to twelve months for 90 to 110 points. Speeding violations have different point values for first, second and third offenses.

Unsatisfied Judgment Fund -- Paul A. MacDonald, Deputy Secretary of State of Maine, has proposed that uninsured motorists be required to contribute \$15 a year to create an unsatisfied judgment fund. The fund would be used to protect insured motorists against loss from accidents caused by drivers without liability insurance. In a report to a legislative research subcommittee Mr. MacDonald said that about 50,000 Maine motorists lack such insurance. They comprise from 20 to 25 per cent of the motor vehicle owners in the state.

License Revocation -- New Jersey on January 1 began posting 600 signs along major highways reading "Speeders Lose Licenses." A new law, effective that date, provides for mandatory revocation of licenses of drivers who travel 70 miles an hour or more in a 60 m.p.h. zone. Also affected are motorists who drive 60 m.p.h. or more in a 50 m.p.h. zone. The length of time for which a license is suspended increases with each speeding violation.

Utility Relocation -- The Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled recently that utilities in the state must pay the cost of relocating their facilities when the relocation is necessitated by construction of bridges and roads. The court said that utilities have no property rights in the highway and can be ordered by the state or municipal agency to relocate their facilities at their own expense. The decision reversed an earlier decision by the Superior Court.

Council Recommendations -- In its final report for 1958, a Tennessee Legislative Council

Driver Education Awards -- The National High School Driver Education Award Program announces that six states have won achievement awards for the extent and quality of their driver education programs in 1957-58. The states are Delaware, Massachusetts, Michigan, Oklahoma, Utah and Vermont. Progress awards were given to Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Montana and Texas.

Committee has submitted to the Governor and members of the legislature three recommendations concerning motor vehicle laws. The committee recommended that an extended program of voluntary motor vehicle inspection be provided by the State Department of Safety as a part of its safety education program. Another recommendation called for strengthening the financial responsibility law and creation of an uninsured motorist fund. The third proposed creation of a separate Department of Motor Vehicles.

Motor Vehicle Department -- The Washington Legislative Interim Committee on Highways has recommended creation of a new State Motor Vehicle Department. The proposed department would handle licensing of cars and trucks, examination and licensing of drivers, collection of the state gas tax, administration of the financial responsibility laws, and other activities relating to motor vehicles. Most of these functions are now administered by the State Department of Licenses. Driver licensing is handled by the State Patrol.

Highway Conference -- The Northeastern Regional Conference on Highway Safety and Motor Vehicle Problems held its twenty-third annual meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, November 10-11. The meeting was sponsored jointly by the Massachusetts Commission on Interstate Cooperation and the Council of State Governments.

The conference acted on reports from two of its special committees.

The Committee on Commercial Vehicle Lighting reported that the Interstate Commerce Commission is considering adoption of an order incorporating lighting standards for commercial vehicles, similar to standards previously developed by the committee and approved by the conference. The conference by resolution urged the I.C.C. to adopt these standards and the states in the Northeast to amend their laws to conform with them.

The Committee on Reciprocal Revocation of Driver Licenses submitted and the conference approved a draft act providing for reporting of all convictions for moving traffic violations to state driver licensing agencies. The suggested act would provide for exchange of information among the states on this subject, so that convictions of out-of-state drivers would be reported to the licensing agencies in the home states.

In other action the conference approved a resolution calling upon states to adopt regulations or legislation to insure that all brake fluids sold within the state meet standards approved by the Society of Automotive Engineers.

EDUCATION

Regional Education Building -- A new office building for the Southern Regional Education Board was dedicated December 15 in Atlanta, Georgia. Governor Cecil H. Underwood of West Virginia, chairman of the board, presided at the ceremonies. Construction of the building was made possible under a plan developed by Governor Marvin Griffin of Georgia. He proposed that Georgia allocate \$250,000 to the State Board of Regents for construction of a building to be leased to the Southern Regional Education Board at \$10,000 a year. After twenty-five years the building may be occupied rent-free but will remain the property of the state.

School Finance -- The Utah State Land Board has ordered that all future royalties on state school lands be placed in a permanent school fund. Royalties are presently divided among school districts. Only the interest on the fund will be used for school support. The board action accomplishes one purpose of a proposed constitutional amendment rejected by Utah voters on November 4. The amendment would have had other effects on school funds and was widely opposed by school organizations.

In issuing the order the board relied on an opinion of Attorney General E. Richard Callister, published just before the general election. The opinion held that the present constitutional provision for use of the principal from school land royalties is in violation of the Enabling Act of Congress which permitted Utah to become a state. The immediate impact of the change is to decrease the amount of money available to schools, necessitating that the state find other sources of revenue to fulfill minimum guarantees of state money to school districts. Active oil development under way on many state school land sections, however, may have the effect of expanding the permanent fund so much that the interest will exceed present royalty payments.

MENTAL HEALTH

Mental Institutions Program -- A number of changes in state laws relating to mental illness are proposed in a recently published report by an Indiana planning commission for a long-range building and treatment program for mental institutions. Recommendations include establishment of a separate Department of Mental Health and adoption of the Interstate Compact on Mental Health. The commission favors enactment of legislation to permit use of county funds for support of community non-profit psychiatric clinics

whether located in the county or not. It recommends extension of workmen's compensation to volunteer workers in state mental institutions and an amendment to the maintenance payment law to charge patients actual per diem costs subject to ability to pay. The commission also proposes a number of appropriation bills for the 1959-61 biennium and subsequent biennial periods. These would be for new construction, repair of existing buildings, expansion of the community psychiatric program and additional hospital facilities for alcoholics.

Western Council on Mental Health -- The Western Council on Mental Health Training and Research of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education is planning a regional meeting to explore means of strengthening mental health programs in the public schools. Focus of the meeting will be the possibility of interstate cooperation to train personnel for such programs in the schools.

The council when created in 1957 received a four-year grant totalling \$171,000 from the National Institute of Mental Health. It was expected that by 1962 the western states would provide full support for its work.

The overall purpose of the council is to devise and spearhead new approaches to improved training and research in mental illness. Its aims include to help hospitals and universities of the West do a better job of training mental health specialists; to help these institutions train more professional workers; to work for establishment of new training centers, including some that can be shared by several states; to improve communication among workers in the field; to encourage research; and to encourage the states to share experts and facilities.

RECIPROCAL SUPPORT

Interstate Meeting -- The Seventh Annual Interstate Conference on Reciprocal Support was held in Miami Beach, Florida, November 19-21. State and local officials from some thirty states attended.

The conference adopted a resolution approving a series of amendments to the Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act which were recently promulgated by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. Some of the amendments are designed primarily to strengthen and clarify the present act. Others provide for important changes in procedures under the law.

There was considerable discussion at the conference of the availability of Old Age and Survivors Insurance and Veterans Administration records to help local officials locate deserting fathers. Representatives of the two federal agencies involved, appearing before the conference, explained the laws and regulations pertaining to confidentiality

of these records and the types of situations in which information might be obtained. A resolution was adopted calling for greater availability of the agencies' records and for changes in regulations and legislation to achieve this purpose. The conference resolved that public assistance funds should be made available to the states on a matching basis to help pay some of the costs of handling reciprocal support cases.

Other topics considered were the effects of various types of defenses offered by respondents, methods for supervising support payments, means for obtaining more effective cooperation among state information agents and the possibility of collecting statistics on reciprocal support cases on a statewide basis. The conference approved a resolution requesting the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws to study questions relating to liability for support of children of bigamous marriages and other related paternity matters.

LABOR

Migratory Labor -- Following a fifteen month study of Oregon's migratory farm labor problems, a nine man legislative interim committee has recommended five changes in state laws.

Representative Don S. Willner, the committee chairman, reports that the group has unanimously agreed to request: (1) a bill to license labor contractors who act as middlemen, to afford better protection for farmers, workers and legitimate contractors; (2) a statute to institute a system of inspection of motor vehicles used in hauling workers, to assure compliance with safety regulations; (3) similar legislation to assure safer, more sanitary housing for migrants; (4) some form of farm labor housing tax relief to encourage migrant housing improvements by farm owners; and (5) an appropriation of \$50,000 to begin an educational pilot program for children of migrant farm workers which would lead to permanent legislation in this field.

The complete study, conducted with the cooperation of seven state agencies and hundreds of volunteers, is scheduled for later publication. It contains data on the average weekly earnings of migrant farm laborers, the educational experience of workers and their children, and other aspects of the migrant farm labor problem.

Workmen's Compensation -- A Wyoming pre-legislative conference of employers, labor officials and the State Workmen's Compensation Department has appointed a joint industry-labor committee. The group will consider recommendations for changes in the state's workmen's compensation laws. Preparation of an occupational disease law is among the topics to be given attention.

LAW ENFORCEMENT, CORRECTIONS

Investigation Commission -- A State Commission of Investigation has been established in New York with broad investigatory powers in the field of law enforcement. In the areas of organized crime, official corruption and malfeasance in office, the commission has power to subpoena witnesses, hold public and private hearings and confer immunity on witnesses. The commission, authorized by the 1958 legislature, is gathering research materials in order to build a working legal library.

Juvenile Crime -- The Texas State Department of Public Safety has reported an all time high in juvenile arrests for the first ten months of 1958. The increase was 16 per cent over the same period for 1957. Establishment of a juvenile parole supervision system is expected to be proposed during the 1959 legislative session. Also proposed is an intermediate reformatory for 16-year-olds, coupled with legislation to give criminal district courts jurisdiction in felony cases involving 16-year-olds.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Interstate Water Conference -- A reconvened session of the Joint Regional Conference on Water Problems met December 3 in Chicago. In a resolution the organization created and merged with the Interstate Conference on Water Problems. It requested the General Assembly of the States, meeting December 4 and 5, to recommend that the Council of State Governments extend to the new conference such services and facilities as may be feasible for the Council to provide. A resolution to that effect was adopted by the Assembly. The purpose of the new organization is to facilitate cooperation, consultation and exchange of information among state officials and agencies as to the conservation, use, development and administration of water resources. Membership in the conference will consist of representatives of state governments who have special responsibilities or interests in water problems.

Water Research -- Governor Robert B. Meyner of New Jersey recently signed a bill creating a New Jersey Water Research and Development Commission to be composed of three Senators, three Assembly members and three citizens appointed by the Governor. Duties of the commission will be to aid the legislature by maintenance of current information concerning the determination, conservation and development of water supplies and resources. The measure provides for a fifteen member Water Advisory Committee representing all areas of the state, to be appointed by the commission.

Potomac River Commission -- The Joint Potomac River Commission, representing Maryland and Virginia, met December 20 at Mount Vernon, Virginia. In a report to the Governors of the two states the commissioners recommended a Potomac River Compact of 1958 to supersede the famous compact of 1785 between the two states. Legislative proposals were submitted with the report to implement the recommendations. Included in the report is a description of various controversies over fishing rights in the Potomac. The commission was established at the recommendation of Former Supreme Court Justice Stanley F. Reed as a fact-finder for the United States Supreme Court. The court had appointed him Special Master in a Virginia suit to nullify Maryland's repeal in 1957 of the old compact.

Stream Pollution -- The Tennessee Stream Pollution Control Board has ordered equipment to measure radioactivity in the state's lakes and streams. It was explained that certain industries handling radioactive materials and considering plant locations in the state requested the measurements. The industries want to know the content of the streams near their prospective plants.

Flood Plain Regulation, Insurance -- A Conference on Flood Plain Regulation and Insurance, held in Chicago December 1 and 2, explored regulatory and insurance measures to complement and supplement the physical construction methods of protection. The conference was sponsored jointly by the Council of State Governments, the American Society of Planning Officials, the American Institute of Engineers and the Department of Geography at the University of Chicago.

State and federal officials attending adopted a statement of conclusions regarding desirable state and federal action in the area of regulation and insurance. Included in the statement were the following conclusions: The Federal Flood Insurance Act should be amended; and states should review their legislation and administration to determine steps needed to authorize use of zoning, subdivision regulation, building codes and other means of land-use regulation to prevent flood losses. Another conclusion was that Congress should authorize federal agencies to cooperate with the states in preparing and publishing evaluation reports and maps giving basic data on flood magnitude and frequency for major flood risk areas.

The conference urged that all future expenditures of federal funds for protective works yielding primarily localized benefits be contingent upon regulatory action by state and local governments to control further encroachment upon floodways.

The statement of conclusions was sub-

mitted to the General Assembly of the States held in Chicago December 4 and 5, and a resolution of the Assembly urged their implementation by necessary administrative and legislative action.

PRE-LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS

Maryland Conference -- An orientation conference for the members-elect of the Maryland General Assembly was held November 26 at the State House in Annapolis. Governor Theodore R. McKeldin welcomed the participants and Governor-Elect J. Millard Tawes spoke at the morning session. The members-elect heard an address by Carl N. Everstine, Director of the Department of Legislative Reference, on the origin and development of the legislative process. Edward A. Rheb, Administrative Analyst, Fiscal Research Bureau, spoke on the organization of the executive department. Chief Judge Frederick W. Brune of the Maryland Court of Appeals addressed the conference on the organization of the judicial department, and R.L. Benson, Jr., Assistant Director of the Legislative Council, on the organization, procedures and rules of the legislature. Mrs. Janet Hoffman, Administrative Analyst of the Fiscal Research Bureau and John S. Shriver, its Director, spoke on the state budget system.

Missouri Conference on Procedures -- The second Missouri Conference on Legislative Procedures, sponsored by the Committee on Legislative Research, was held December 1 and 2 at the University of Missouri for newly elected members of the General Assembly.

The opening session dealt with the organization of the General Assembly and was presided over by Professor Robert F. Karsch. Participants heard an address on standing committees by Senator Floyd R. Gibson, on conference committees by Senator Hartwell G. Crain, on the work of the majority floor leader by Representative Warren E. Hearnes, and on the work of the minority leader by Representative Martin P. Degenhardt. William R. Nelson, Director of the Committee on Legislative Research, spoke on processes in enactment of legislation.

Representative Harry W. Smith presided over a session on state financial problems at which Senator John W. Noble and John W. Schwada, Comptroller, spoke. Governor James T. Blair, Jr., was the speaker at a dinner at which Elmer Ellis, President of the University of Missouri, presided.

There were two morning sessions on December 2 -- one on education and social services, the other on local and state government problems.

With Representative Thomas D. Graham presiding at the first session, Representative Richard H. Ichord discussed the school foundation program and Senator C.R. Hawkins spoke on handicapped persons. Senator-elect Raymond B. Hopfinger dealt with corrections and penal institutions.

Representative James C. Crouch presided

Calendar of Duties -- The Institute of Government of the University of North Carolina has compiled a calendar of duties for city and county officials to assist them in their tasks. The calendar includes the principal duties required by general laws or by regulations of state agencies to be performed on definite dates or during specified months. It lists for each month the day the task is to be performed and the official responsible for it. It adds an explanation of the duty and the pertinent legal reference to the General Statutes of North Carolina. An example of the calendar for county officials is this notation for April 6, 1959; "Clerk of Superior Court -- Make quarterly report and remittance on State process tax collected -- 105-93(f)."

at the session on local and state government problems. Speakers were Senator E. Gary Davidson, on metropolitan problems; Senator J.F. Patterson, on industrial development; Senator George A. Spencer, on water resources; and Senator Albert M. Spradling, Jr., on atomic energy.

Lieutenant Governor Edward V. Long presided at a concluding luncheon session.

Oklahoma Conference -- The Oklahoma biennial pre-session conference on legislative procedures was held December 12 at Norman. The conference is sponsored jointly by the Legislative Council and the University of Oklahoma.

Jack A. Rhodes, Director of the Legislative Council, addressed the participants on the council's program. Brevard Crihfield, Executive Director of the Council of State Governments, spoke of major state legislative proposals for 1959. University assistance to the legislature was described by H.V. Thornton, Director of the Bureau of Government Research, University of Oklahoma.

Senator Don Baldwin, President Pro Tempore of the Senate and Chairman of the Legislative Council, presided at a luncheon. Among other speakers were Representative James C. Nance, who dealt with legislative organization; Representative James M. Bullard, who discussed house rules of procedure and joint rules; and Senator Hugh M. Sandlin, who emphasized public relations and relationships between legislators. Otis Sullivan, political writer for the Daily Oklahoman, gave the legislators a newspaperman's view of the legislature.

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

California Intern Program -- The Department of Political Science of the University of California has issued the first annual report on the California Legislative Intern Program. The program was initiated in 1957

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under the sponsorship of the California Assembly and several universities -- University of California, Berkeley and Los Angeles; Stanford University; University of Southern California, and Claremont Graduate Schools.

During 1957-58 eight interns from the universities were appointed on a full-time basis for ten months. The interns, graduates or graduate students in law, political science or journalism, were assigned as staff aides to assist Assembly committees and officers.

The report describes the establishment and initial progress of the program, presents brief biographical sketches of the first interns, and tells of their assignments after completion of the program and the university's role in it. Also discussed are prospects and problems associated with the program and its continuation. Interns for 1958-59 are now at work.

STATE PROGRAMS PROPOSED

Iowa Governor's Commission -- A Governor's Commission on Economic and Social Trends in Iowa has published a report on the state's prospects and problems, with recommendations for action. The overall report includes presentations by eleven subcommittees on studies in such areas as agriculture, industry, the labor force, water and power resources, human resources and government organization. Each subcommittee made recommendations, and these were incorporated in the commission's report.

Major recommendations include proposals for establishment of an Office of State Planning, a Department of Industry and Labor, and a state agency for community development. The commission recommended a continuing program of state watershed development.

It recommended that the state ballot be shortened so that only the Governor and Lieutenant Governor would be elected, both for four year terms. Also favored were annual sessions and four year terms for legislators. The commission proposed a reapportionment program, one house to be apportioned

by population districts, the other on an area basis.

Another recommendation affecting government organization would provide for civil service for all state employees other than department executives, officials on the staff of the Governor and employees of institutions administered by the Board of Regents.

Legislative Council Program -- Montana's first permanent Legislative Council will complete its initial two years of work by sponsoring some half dozen bills in the 1959 legislature. A key measure to be offered by it is a bill revising state budgetary practices and establishing an office of budget director directly under the Governor. Another four bills are being prepared to effect personnel changes in prison administration. These result from a full study and hearing on prison problems authorized by a 1957 Senate resolution.

The council also expects to have ready one or two bills revising the administration of higher education. Basis of the legislation will be recommendations resulting from two recent studies on the subject -- one by G. Homer Durham, Vice President of the University of Utah, the other by the Governor's Committee on Education Beyond the High School. Both studies agree on two main points: (1) a need for better staffing of the State Board of Education to enable it to coordinate activities of Montana's six public university units; (2) the desirability of relieving the Board of Education of all but instructional responsibility at five custodial institutions.

A major point of disagreement between the two reports is that the Durham study recommends administrative separation of the university system from the rest of the public school system, whereas the Governor's committee favors a single Board of Education to assure correlation between education at the secondary and college levels.

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